

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice  
Ministry

HB 583 Climate Solutions Now

Environmental and Transportation Committee

3/27/2021

FAVORABLE

As a people of faith, we believe this is a vital bill. We would be very disappointed if this bill should be weakened by attaching amendments that change any aspects of the bill as written.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommends that Maryland achieve net neutrality by 2045

The bill will also require a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2030

Current law requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and sets an aspirational goal of 80% by 2050

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities will decide what percent of all state funds invested in climate must be spent in overburdened communities This provision is based on the New York Climate and Community Investment Act, which is widely considered the gold standard of state environmental justice policies

A work group comprised of IBEW, AFL-CIO, registered apprenticeships, construction laborers, and building trades will be formed

This work group will make recommendations for workforce development and training for displaced fossil fuel workers.

Plant 5 million trees by 2030 with 10% (500,000) to be planted in underserved urban areas of the State

Increase EMPOWER efficiency gains from 2% to 3% a year

Fund bus and passenger vehicle electrification

Require air monitoring at landfills

Require emission reductions from retrofitted large buildings

Require new state buildings to be net neutral, with exceptions for schools

Let's pass Climate Solutions and protect our children.

We ask that you pass HB0583 as favorable without amendments.

Thank you, Lee McNair, co-chair

Cedar Lane UU Environmental Justice Ministry

